

DEMOCRATS TAKE WATER.

THEY LACK THE COURAGE OF THEIR
PROFESSIONS ON TARIFF MATTERS.

THE 25 PER CENT TAX ON SUGAR ABANDONED
AND THE BOUNTY RETAINED WITH MODI-
FICATIONS—IT WILL BE REDUCED
GRADUALLY—THE BILL TO BE
MADE PUBLIC TO-DAY.

[TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Washington, Nov. 28.—The sugar schedule proposed by the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee, after a long and severe struggle, is not one that will be likely to excite wild enthusiasm among the sugar producers of the South and West. It probably means that the Democratic members were unable to agree among themselves and were therefore obliged to shift the responsibility upon the House and Senate. The retention of any bounty whatever during a period of eight years, or even one year, would give the lie to every profession and utterance of the Democratic party on that subject during the last three years.

Of the sugar produced in the United States is 1893 about 77 per cent polarized at or above 90 degrees and received a bounty of 2 cents a pound and about 22 per cent polarized above 80 and under 90 degrees and received a bounty of 1½ cents a pound. In 1894, if the recommendation of the majority of the Ways and Means Committee shall be approved, the bounty will be 1½ cents and 1 and 17-32 cents a pound on the respective grades and will diminish at the rate of ¼ and 7-32 of a cent a year until it is extinguished. The total amount paid in bounties this year was \$9,375,139 88 on 482,125,081 pounds of sugar.

What effect the reduction of the duty on sugar above No. 16 D. S. will have upon the revenues from customs it is difficult, if not impossible, to foresee, but if the action of the majority of the committee shall be confirmed by the House and Senate, the necessity of raising a large amount of revenue from internal taxation will be inevitable.

The Democratic members have been working steadily to-day, and they confidently expect to have the bill completed as to everything except the internal revenue provisions by 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, the hour appointed by Chairman Wilson "to receive" the Republican members of the committee. The bill will be disposed of by the committee to-morrow night, and there is no doubt that the public opinion members desire to offer amendments, and it is probable that a good many amendments will be taken in the committee before a final decision is reached.

Prior to the conference with Secretary Carr, the House had passed the bill. The House passed the bill last night it had been practically decided, as stated in these dispatches yesterday, that the bill would be passed. The House placed an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent on sugar. The protests from the sugar growers of the west against any increase in the tax on sugar were so strong that at the last moment the committee changed front and decided to lower instead of increasing the sugar duty. But

realizing that this marked divergence from the action previously indicated as being in contemplation would affect stocks and values, the chairman of the committee authorized the following statement of its action to be made public to-night:

"The Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means completed their tariff bill last night, near midnight, the last item finally acted upon being the sugar schedule. It being brought to their attention by the speculators, they falsely pretending to have had information of their proposed action having been seeking to manipulate the stock market, they deemed it best to depart from their general plan of refusing information of their tariff items, until their full bill was made public, and at once to publish their conclusions on this schedule, so that all men may stand on the same footing of authentication. The new bill is to be promulgated to-morrow will show the following changes in the sugar schedule: The duty on refined sugar is reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ cent a pound. Raw sugars remain free of tax. The McKinley bounty is repealed progressively; that is, one-eighth each year, so that at the end of eight years it is to cease entirely."

The exact language of the McKinley bill under which the sugar bounty is now paid is as follows:

"That on and after July 1, 1891, and until July 1, 1895, there shall be paid from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, under the provisions of Section 3,689 of the Revised Statutes, to the producer of sugar, testing not less than 90 degrees by the polariscope, from beets, sorghum or sugarcane grown within the United States, or from maple sap produced within the United States, a bounty of 2 cents per pound; and upon such sugar testing less than 90 degrees by the polariscope, and not less than 80 degrees, a bounty of 1½ cents per pound, under such rules and regulations as the Commissioners of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe."

The 2 cents sugar bounty enacted by the Missouri legislature in 1892, which was to be removed by the Wilson bill if it should become a law, as follows: 1¢ cents per pound for fiscal year 1894-95, 1½ cents per pound for fiscal year 1895-96, 1¼ cents per pound for fiscal year 1896-97, 1 cent per pound for fiscal year 1897-98, ¾ cent per pound for fiscal year 1898-99, ½ cent per pound for fiscal year 1899-1900, ¼ cent per pound for fiscal year 1900-1901; and the bounty on the fiscal year 1902.

According to the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the quantity of sugar entitled to claim bounty, which was in process of cultivation or manufacture on July 1, last, was as follows:

State or Territory.	Material.	Number of pounds.
Louisiana	Cane	2,816.50
Texas	Cane	18.50
Florida	Cane	15.50
Kansas	Sorghum	10.00
California	Beet	8,946.35
Utah	Beet	233.50
Nebraska	Beet	1,563.20

The amount of maple sugar that is likely to be tapped can scarcely be made the subject of estimate. Over \$62,500 was paid out in bounty for maple sugar in 1892. The number of licensed maple sugar producers in that year was 4,240. The number of licenses increased this year to 6,095, which of course means a

The change in the sugar schedule, so far as can be learned, is the only startling departure from the provisions of the proposed bill, as they have from time to time been permitted to leak out.

COMMENDED BY "THE LONDON TIMES.
THE NEW TARIFF BILL CALLED "A BOLD AND
COMPREHENSIVE MEASURE OF REFORM."
London, Nov. 27.—"The Times" says editorially
of the new Tariff bill prepared by the Ways and

"The Tariff bill as drawn is a bold and comprehensive measure of reform. The free list would probably be more pleasing to British exporters if it contained more substantial reductions on manufactured articles, although there is room for further

of material relief regarding many of these. There can hardly be any general revival of confidence or return of prosperity in the States while business is in its present stagnant condition. Anything tending to a solution of the fiscal difficulties, therefore, is welcome. The nation's general prosperity

After comparing Republican and Democratic views of the situation, "The Times" concludes: "The Democratic views are much more creditable to the good sense and probity of the American people."

people; therefore we prefer to accept the Democratic theory until the contrary be shown to be true."